Microbial population dynamics in rubber coagula from *Hevea brasiliensis*

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Natural rubber produced from the tree *Hevea brasiliensis* is a material of first importance for the tyre industry and for many other sectors such as the vibration isolation and the general rubber good industries. To produce TSR10 or 20 block rubber, trees are tapped, and the produced latex coagulates a few hours later in the collection cup. The fresh coagulate of natural rubber is then subjected to a maturation process that involves complex microbial populations. These microorganisms were shown to influence the biochemical composition and the properties of the final material [1]. This study intends to better understand the dynamics of microbial populations during the maturation process through culture-dependent and high-throughput culture-independent methods (454 pyrosequencing).

Keywords: natural rubber ; coagulum ; microorganisms ; maturation ; properties ; population dynamics ; latex ; *Hevea brasiliensis ;* 454 pyrosequencing ; Next Generation Sequencing

References

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